

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph of page 2 including lines 16-28, by the following amended paragraph:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,299,602 discloses an outer shell fabric wherein the textile material comprises warps of alternating multi-filamentary aramid yarns and wefts of alternating spun aramid and multi-filamentary aramid yarns in a twill weave. The object of the invention disclosed in that Patent was to increase firefighter comfort and mobility without reducing mechanical resistance. However, this fabric is still more vulnerable to yarn and seam slippage than fabrics made with 100% spun yarns. Also as a consequence of the high percentage of multi-filamentary yarns, the fabric ravel and frays when cut or torn. Furthermore, the fabric has a preponderance of ~~Kevlar~~EVLAR[®] (aramid resin by DuPont) yarns on the face surface of the fabric and KEVLAREvlar[®] is more subject to mechanical and ultraviolet (UV) degradation than either spun or multi-filamentary NOMEXomex[®] (yarns or threads of synthetic fibers by DuPont).

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 29 and ending on page 13, line 8, by the following paragraph:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,527,597 discloses a woven firefighter fabric that incorporates a core-spun yarn (a LyeraYCRA[®] (yarns or threads of synthetic fibers by DuPont) core protected by a polybenzimidazole/aramid wrap) to impart a degree of elasticity to the fabric. Although the Patent claims that the fabric maintains its elasticity after five minutes at 500° F, the literature reveals that LYCRAayera[®] is not thermally stable in firefighting environments: if stretched at temperatures above 370-390° F., LyeraYCRA[®] will lose its elasticity; above 415° F., LyeraYCRA[®] begins to char and lose its properties.

Therefore, this stretchable fabric would suffer irreversible degradation in a firefighting environment.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 28 and ending on page 5, line 2, by the following paragraph:

In accordance with yet another embodiment, the second yarns are multi-filamentary yarns which are different from the first yarns and are made up of a fiber or a blend of fibers different from the multi-filamentary yarns of the first yarns. Preferably, the first yarn type consists of NemexOMEX[®] and the second yarn type consists of KEVLARReklar[®].

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 and ending at line 9, by the following paragraph:

Turning now to FIGURE 2 which illustrates a double weave, the upper face 3 of the double weave consists of a warp of yarns 4 and a weft of yarns 5, here both NemexOMEX[®], wherein NemexOMEX[®] yarns 4 are predominantly exposed on upper surface 3. Bottom surface 6, on the other hand is a warp and weft weave of yarns 7 and 8, here both KEVLARReklar[®], wherein KEVLARReklar[®] is predominantly exposed on bottom surface 6. The two weaves constituting upper surface 3 and bottom surface 6 are interlaced as shown by means of intermittent warp yarns 4 consisting of NOMEXemex[®].

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 10 and ending at line 15, by the following paragraph:

Referring now to FIGURE 3, the warp knit which is illustrated is a pillar stitch and cord stitch construction as commonly called in warp knit terminology. Warp knit yarns 11 forming the pillar stitch are multi-filamentary NemexOMEX[®] which are exposed on a major part of the face surface 15 of fabric 12, while warp knit yarns 13 are either spun or

multi-filamentary KEVLAR® which are exposed on a major part of the back surface 14 of fabric 12.